

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has mistakenly reported U.S. 5,776,839 to Dischler et al. ("Dischler") as U.S. 5,576,839.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct formal matters. It is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is no longer rejectable under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 11 recites an airbag fabric comprising intersecting warp and weft threads made of at least one of synthetic fibers and filaments and woven at such a density that openings remaining between their intersections yield an at least microporous structure in said fabric, wherein at least one of crystalline and amorphous particles are incorporated in at least some of said openings, said fabric having a coating or finish of polymeric material that has been applied after said incorporation of at least one of crystalline and amorphous particles, said coating or finish comprising a silicone.

Dischler is not relevant art to claim 11. In Dischler, high tenacity yarns are coated with a powder that changes the friction between the yarns due to the fact that the powder penetrates the yarns. The claimed fabric in claim 11 differs from the yarn disclosed in Dischler in that, in claim 11, crystalline and/or amorphous particles are incorporated in the openings of the fabric and do not penetrate into the yarns from which the fabric is made, as disclosed in Dischler. While Dischler's "dilatant powders" actually act as dry

lubricants, thereby enhancing the fabric's ability to dissipate kinetic energy (See Dischler Col. 4, Lines 17-23), the present invention, using crystalline and amorphous particles instead of dilatant powders, leads just to the opposite effect, i.e. to a substantial increase of static friction between the yarns of the fabric (See Spec., Page 2, Para. 4). Accordingly, the high tenacity yarns coated with a powder disclosed in Dischler are different than the fabric recited in claim 11, and therefore, Dischler is not relevant art.

Further, Dischler does not disclose or suggest applying a coating or finish to the fabric after incorporation of the at least one of crystalline and/or amorphous particles, the coating or finish comprising a silicone, as recited in claim 11. In fact, Dischler is silent on applying such a coating. Accordingly, Dischler does not disclose or suggest claim 11.

In fact, no prior art discloses the invention of claim 11 or renders claim 11 obvious. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable.

Claims 2-9, 12 and 19-20 depend from claim 11 and are allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 11 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-9, 12 and 19-20 is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is not rejectable under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 12 recites a static friction at the intersections between the warp and weft threads being present in the treated fabric that

is at least 5% greater than that of an untreated fabric having the same construction as the treated fabric. Claim 12 is not indefinite because if an untreated fabric has a static friction value of X, the treated fabric according to claim 12 has a value at least 5% greater than X, and the untreated and treated fabrics have the same cover factor.

It is clear that "untreated fabric" as recited in claim 12 refers to fabric, wherein ~~no~~ crystalline and/or amorphous particles are incorporated in the openings, consequently, an "untreated fabric" has a static friction less than a treated airbag fabric as recited in claim 12. Accordingly, claim 12 is clear and not indefinite.

New claim 20 has been added by this amendment. New claim 20 recites the closed language that was deleted in claim 11. Claim 20 depends from claim 11 and is allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 20 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's hint to high tenacity yarns in section 1 of the Office Action is respectfully traversed. The crystalline and amorphous areas of synthetic yarns are areas of polymer chains (such as polyamide) forming the respective filaments, said areas directly resulting from their chemical structure. The present invention is totally silent on the chemical structure of the fabric's yarns. The crystalline and amorphous particles which are incorporated into the fabric's openings situated between intersections of warp and weft yarns have nothing to do with crystalline and amorphous areas

possibly present within the polymer chain of said warp and weft yarns.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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